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RHMFIS/HQ USSOUTHCOM J3 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: TFKV01: KOSOVO TASK FORCE SITUATION REPORT NO. 18

EMBASSY BELGRADE TO REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL FEBRUARY 27

1. (SBU) Embassy Belgrade reports the capital remains calm and the International School is open. At the chancery, the installation of steel plating and other reinforcement work should be completed today. The EAC recommended the Embassy remain closed February 26 as a precaution, reopening for limited business February 27. (Kosovo TF/Embassy Belgrade telcon)

LAVROV AND MEDVEDEV VISIT BELGRADE

2. (U) Russian FM Lavrov and First Deputy PM Medvedev met in Belgrade with President Tadic and Prime Minister Kostunica, media report. Medvedev reportedly told his hosts Moscow's support for Serbia on Kosovo remains unchanged. The day before, the Russian Foreign Ministry repeated its demand for a "compromise" on Kosovo and noted Russia maintained peacekeeping troops there from 1999-2004, possibly suggesting a return of Russian troops in

ethnic Serb areas. (Reuters, bbc.co.uk)

SERBIAN MINISTER VISITS KOSOVO

¶3. (U) Minister for Kosovo Samardzic entered the country with an unspecified number of fellow government ministers to meet with local Serbian residents and register opposition to Kosovo's independence, media report. (bbc.co.uk)

¶4. (U) Minimize considered.
RICE